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Long Beach mayor letter support SB 54

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MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA

CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 5, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Governor of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 54 (de León)

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to express the City's support of SB 54 (de León). Our city council unanimously supports SB 54 and legislation that protects immigrants who are positively contributing to California's economy.

As a vibrant, multi-cultural city, Long Beach thrives on the ingenuity, entrepreneurship, and diversity of our immigrant communities and American-born residents. Over 40 percent of the Long Beach population identifies as Latino, and 12 percent identify as Asian; it is also believed Long Beach has the largest Cambodian population outside of Southeast Asia. Our immigrant population deserves credit for opening small businesses, keeping our streets safe, and engaging in our community.

Immigration is a federal policy issue between the United States government and other countries. It is reasonable and responsible that SB 54 limits State and local law enforcement agencies from using local resources to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect or arrest individuals solely for immigration enforcement purposes. Long Beach, along with other major cities and the State of California, believe enforcing immigration at the local level undermines the trust and cooperation with immigrant communities, which are essential elements of community-oriented public safety.

Our immigrants make Long Beach stronger, and we value their work and welcome them as neighbors and family. I also ask as you work with legislative leaders to pass this legislation that we do not remove important legal protections for our immigrants. Let's strengthen protections, not remove them.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach writes in support of SB 54 (de León).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", is written over a white background.

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach